

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Since baccarat's introduction in Nevada casinos, the game has assumed an[[d]] aura of glamour and in most casinos baccarat is played in a designated, at least partially segregated area. The intention is to attract the more sophisticated, monied player or "high roller". However, for all the intrigue and/or mystery surrounding the game of baccarat, which has been significantly enhanced by its depiction in numerous popular "spy movies", baccarat is primarily a very simple game. Normally, but not always, there are no decisions or options for the player to ~~be-made~~ make and generally speaking there is no degree of skill required for either the players or the dealer except in the area of wagering. In most casinos a player may be seated in any open seat at the table and the seating position does not affect the play in any manner. In conventional[[,]] casino baccarat, the number of players may vary from one through fifteen. Naturally, as in all casino run games, "house rules" dictate and the number of players allowed to concurrently participate in a game of baccarat may be

determined by the house and may be smaller or larger than the conventional number fifteen.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9 line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Looking to the first, illustrated embodiment, the present invention includes a baccarat gaming assembly that is preferably automated so as to make the game of baccarat more accessible to the gaming public. To this end, the baccarat gaming assembly includes at least one computer processor, at least one associated display, and [[a]] an input having a user actuatable selector. In particular, the display allows the user to readily see the progress of the game in a manner simulating a conventional game, while the actuatable selector assembly allows the user to make any necessary decisions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10 line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Looking to the computer processor assembly, it is structured to generate a player's hand and a banker's hand in accordance with rules of baccarat. Moreover, the computer

processor assembly is also preferably structured to permit the user either before or after dealing the hands, to elect whether their user hand is the player's hand or the banker's hand. As a result, the user may play hunches and the like to decide which hand to play. Once the hands have been designated accordingly, the computer processor assembly is further structured to add cards to the player hand and the banker hand in accordance with the conventional rules of the card game baccarat, ultimately identifying one of the hands as a winning hand. Naturally, if the wining hand is the user hand, the user is designated a winner and a corresponding payout is made. So as to further enhance the playing experience, however, the computer processor assembly is further preferably structured to keep track of consecutive ~~ones of the~~ user's hands, and to indicate a bonus payout to be paid to the user if a predetermined number count of nine occurs in at least two consecutive ones of the user's hands. Alternately or additionally, the bonus payout may be provided merely if one, or preferably the user's hand merely totals nine. In such an embodiment the increased bonus payout may also be provided for consecutive hands totaling nine.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Further, in yet another embodiment, the computer processor may deal one or both of the initial hands with one visible card and one covered card. In such an embodiment, the computer processor is responsive to a user input and will selectively replace the initially visible card of either one or both hands. Furthermore, the computer processor may be programmed to be responsive to the user input, either before or after the user has elected whether to play the bank hand or the player hand. As such, the user can not only maximize their opportunity to win the hand, but also can maximize their opportunity to have a number count of nine on one or both hands.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

-- From the preceding system, it is noted that the present invention may also include a method of playing baccarat, which ~~maybe~~ may be achieved manually and/or through some automated means. As in conventional baccarat, only a player's hand and a banker's hand is dealt and the plurality of participants each

have the option, with the exception of the participant designated as the banker, of placing a wager on either the player's hand or the banker's hand or both. Under the rules established by certain casinos the plurality of participants may also bet on the occurrence of a tie between the player's hand and the banker's hand, but such modified rule changes do not significantly affect the variation of the method of play of "baccarat plus" of the present invention, as set forth in greater detail hereinafter.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Alternately, the present invention may relate to a method of play that comprises, in many aspects and embodiments, the play of a conventional game of baccarat, wherein each game of baccarat, as described hereinafter is meant to comprise the dealing of a player's hand and a banker's hand. More specifically, at the start of play the casino announces or designates a bonus payout. The bonus payout either can be in the form of a dollar amount and/or an odds payout, such as two to one, three to one, four to one, etc. Among the plurality of

participants in the card game, a "banker" may typically be chosen. The "banker/player", hereinafter termed banker, is determined in accordance with conventional method of play in that the banker is defined by the player offered and accepting the shoe and attending to the physical dispensing of the cards from the shoe. Naturally, any participant may pass his turn at the shoe wherein the shoe is passed to the right successively to each player until a participant is found which will accept the shoe and become the banker. Prior to dealing the cards, the banker and/or any of the participants may be given the opportunity of making a bonus wager in addition to or as part of a normal primary wager. The primary wager, in typical fashion, is made so as to participate in the next game of baccarat and the bonus wager allows the participant the possibility of collecting the bonus payout, which, as determined by the casino or house may be either a dollar amount or an odds amount. In either event the participant may or may not be required to make a bonus wager, and play continues in the manner of a conventional baccarat game.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13 line 19

with the following amended paragraph:

-- Play again proceeds in the determining of a winner between the player's hand and the banker's hand by which hand has a total number count closer to nine. The total number count of nine is the best hand capable of being accomplished in the conventional play of the game of baccarat. As an alternative to winning or losing, the player's hand and the banker's hand may tie by having the same total number count. Also, the participant designated the banker and accepting responsibility for the shoe and the distribution of cards therefrom[[,]] maintains the banker status until the banker's hand becomes the losing hand in any given baccarat game. As long as the banker's hand beats or ties the player's hand (has a total number count closer to nine or equal to that of the player's hand), the banker remains the banker and controls the shoe. The determination of the banker among the plurality of participants concurrently participating may be important in that, in one embodiment of the present invention, only the banker and/or a limited number of players may be allowed the opportunity of making a bonus wager and thereby participating in the possibility of collecting the bonus payout.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14 line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

-- As set forth above, the best hand possible to obtain in the conventional game of baccarat is the occurrence of a total number count of either a player's hand or a banker's hand[[,]] equaling nine, and as such does not occur during a majority of hands. In addition, while the occurrence of the total number of count of nine in consecutive hands is not a normal happening, it does occur and is the basis of one embodiment of "baccarat plus" or a variation of the conventional game of baccarat of the present invention, which greatly rewards at least the banker, in terms of being able to collect the bonus payout set by the casino. More specifically, a participant who has previously made a bonus wager, or is otherwise ~~elligible~~ eligible for the bonus payout, of a preset or agreed upon amount, will collect the bonus payout, also established by the casino, if the total number count of each of at least two consecutive hands, played in consecutive baccarat games, are equal to a predetermined number count set by the casino. As emphasized above the best possible hand is a total number count of nine. Accordingly in one embodiment of the present invention the predetermined number

count would be equal to nine. When nine is established as being the predetermined number count, the occurrence of a natural nine (ten or face card plus a nine card) or a broken nine (seven and two, six and three, four and five) may meet the requirement for consecutive hands of equal number count. Naturally the casino, for whatever reason, could establish a different predetermined number count for awarding consecutively occurring banker's hands. Also, in certain additional embodiments of the present invention, more than one number could be established by the casino, wherein consecutive hands could have a number count equal to either of the previously established predetermined numbers. Furthermore in a further embodiment of the present invention a bonus payout, such as in the form of an added payout or an increased winner payout may be made merely if either one of the hands totals nine, or if the participant's hand totals nine, or if a hand wagered upon totals nine, or another designated number count. As a result, the benefit to a win may be increased if the win comes with a number count of nine. Furthermore, although it is preferred that all of the consecutive hands having a total of nine be the participant's hands, it may be desirable to provide for any combination of

hands totaling nine or a natural nine. In the case of the consecutive hands totaling nine the bonus payout is preferably increased.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17 line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In a manual mode of play the participant makes a primary wager and makes a separate, independent bonus wager, which is paid directly to the dealer[[,]] as a representative of the casino and/or placed on a designated portion of the playing surface of conventional or specialized apparatus, to be described in greater detail hereinafter. In a random mode of play of the present invention, the participant makes a primary wager to participate in the next baccarat game and makes an independent bonus wager, paid to the dealer or other casino representative directly and/or positioned on a designated, predetermined portion of the playing surface, as set forth above. However, an increase in the bonus payout may occur on a random basis, determined by any established rules or regiments set forth by the casino, in order to further reward the winner for participating in the bonus portion of the playing method and

for achieving more than two consecutive hands of equal number count.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18 line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The banker may at any time increase his wager on the banker's hand and also may withdraw half, or some amount less than half, of his wager[[,]] after the second winning hand has occurred. Further, a banker can participate in the bonus wager/bonus payout any time if he/she has not done so beginning at the play of the first game of [[the]] baccarat. Also, the banker can withdraw at any time, even when the first winning hand is a tie, wherein all primary wagers are returned. In this event the shoe is awarded to the next player on the right of the banker that is willing to cover at least the value of the original banker's primary wager after deducting any bonus wager, as set forth above.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18 line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

-- As will be further described in greater detail

hereinafter, wagers are made by each of the players, by placing their chips on a designated portion of the playing surface so as to clearly indicate whether a given player is playing with the player's hand or the banker's hand. Chips may be placed on certain lines indicating that only of a portion of the indicated bet is to be a wager and the entire amount is to be indicated as contributing to the "auction" for buying the shoe. Person[['']]s standing by the table on which the playing surface is mounted may or may not be able to participate in the conventional game of baccarat as determined by the casino or house.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24 line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Before looking to the preferred, automated embodiment of the present invention, we first elaborate on one or more methods of playing the subject variation of the card game baccarat, herein in termed "baccarat plus", it being understood that it could be conducted on a variety of playing surfaces, and as will be described with regard to the embodiments of Figures 1 and 8, as an automated game on one or more gaming machine. In order to facilitate the playing of the "baccarat plus" variation, in a

more conventional playing card manner, Figures 1A through 4 show an assembly generally indicated as 10 including a playing surface generally indicated as 12, specifically designed for playing of "baccarat plus" but as will be apparent hereinafter, is adaptable for the playing of a variety of other card games. The playing surface 12 includes a plurality of consecutively arranged player areas 14, the number of which may vary ~~depended~~ depending upon house or casino rules. Each of the player areas 14 is numbered consecutively as one through nine and at least partially surround a betting or wagering surface 16. The wagering surface 16 preferably includes an elongated, somewhat curvilinear or U-shaped betting area or section 18 accessible to all of the player areas 14 and designated to receive chips representing wagers on a player's hand. Similarly the wagering surface area 16 may include a plurality of consecutive numerals, equal on numbers to the number of playing areas and indicated as 20. The wagering surface portion 20 is reserved and designated to receive chips from each of the various players who wish to wager that the banker's hand will be the winning hand of any given baccarat game. An indentation generally indicated as 22 may be provided and represents a dealer position, wherein the

dealer is a representative of the casino or house and has certain specified duties during, before and after the playing of the individual hands.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27 line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

-- As in conventional baccarat, the player/participant having possession of the shoe 30 and being in charge of physically distributing cards therefrom is designated the banker. As best shown in Figures 1A, 3 and 4, the playing assembly and/or apparatus of the present invention further comprises a display assembly generally indicated as 38 which may be mounted adjacent the playing surface 12, such as on an elongated standard as at 40 which positions a display portion 42 above the playing surface 12. The display portion 42 should be in clear site of at least all of the players located at the various playing areas 14 and preferably by the one or more dealers located at least at the dealer position 22. As shown in Figure 3 the display portion 42 is structured to display the location of the player area, designated as the banker, such as by indicating a numeral, as at 46, representing one of the

player areas 14. Similarly, a visual display in the form of a logo 47 may also be displayed on the display portion 42. The plus designation area, as at 48, will represent a plurality of numerals, generally one through five, wherein such numerals indicate the consecutive number of hands of the banker which have the same total number count and more specifically wherein each of the consecutive hands have the same number count as a predetermined number count designated by the casino, as will be explained in greater detail hereinafter.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32 line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The banker as at 78 begins dealing the card in a conventional, alternate fashion to form both the player's hand and the banker's hand. More specifically, the banker places his first card in the proper player section 26, as at 79, in order to define the first card of the banker's hand, and immediately thereafter the banker, as at 80 delivers the first card of the player's hand. As represented at 82, the banker deals a second card representing the second card to both the banker and player. With reference to Figure 5A, the dealer then uncovers the cards

representative of the player's hand as at 84. The banker as at 86 uncovers the cards representative of the banker's hand and the camera assembly 32 proceeds to read the cards oriented in the card positioning section 26 as shown in Figure 2, being ~~represented~~ representative of the banker's hand.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32 line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The decision is then made as to the winning hand as at 90. If the banker's hand is not the winning hand as at 92, the banker loses his primary wager and bonus wager. In addition, the banker or dealer then deactivates system by removing his switch key or any other apparatus or device from a corresponding switch structure 56 as at 94. However, if the banker's hand is the winning hand as at 96, either before, simultaneously or after, it is determined if the banker's hand is a natural nine, which for purposes of the method of play[[ed]] herein is defined as the predetermined number count set by the casino as the total number count must be reached by each of the consecutive banker's hands in order to collect the bonus payout. As set forth above, the casino or house may designate other numbers instead of or in

addition to the number nine. However, due to the fact that the total number count nine is the best possible hand in the game of baccarat, no other number would be as practical or feasible in defining the predetermined number count, in that the banker's hand must be a winning or ~~tieing~~ tying hand, in order to continue play.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 34 line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In event the banker decides to resign after achieving two or more consecutive hands having the same number count, equal to the number nine as at 110, he de-activates the system by removing his switch key from the individual one of the switch structures 56. This causes the deactivation of the camera assembly 32 as at 112, wherein the final display of the display portion 42 indicates the total number of consecutive hands established by the banker as at 114. The dealer or the house announces to the individual players, such as through the various speakers 58, the amount of the bonus payout to be collected by the banker as at 116. The bank becomes a "suite" and another player is attempted to be designated as the banker as at 120.

If no banker accepts the shoe, the house takes the shoe as at 122 and the game continues until the end as at 123.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 35 line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

-- It should be recognized that once a banker has achieved a consecutive number of the designated number total, which in the illustrated embodiment is a natural nine, the bonus payout is preferably guaranteed to the banker, whether or not he/she continues as the banker or later loses a hand. Along these lines, if the person continues as the banker, it is possible that the bonus payout can be pulled out in favor of none or a new bonus wager, the entire amount can be the new bonus wager, or the amount won can designate a minimum that may be surpassed by a future greater number of consecutive bonus hands so as to increase the minimum amount guaranteed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 35 line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The embodiment of the method of playing ~~[[of]]~~ the variation "baccarat plus" as described above is represented as

the "manual mode" of play and is indicated in Figures 5 and 5A. A somewhat different embodiment is disclosed in Figure 6 and 6A and is herein represented as the "automatic mode". The automatic mode differs from the manual mode at least to the extent that when the banker decides to participate in the "baccarat plus" variation and determines that he wishes a chance at collecting the announced "bonus payout" as at 62, he designates an amount of his bonus wager as at 66 but does not physically pay a separate or independent wager to the house. To the contrary the designated amount of the banker's wager is included within the primary wager as at 66 in Figure 6. Accordingly, as the game proceeds, and in the event it is determined as at [[90]] 92 that the banker's hand is not the winning hand, the dealer then deducts, as at 93 in Figure 6A, the indicated amount of the bonus wager from the primary wager indicated as at 66 in Figure 6, rather than collecting an independent bonus wager amount as in the embodiment of Figures 5 and 5A. Once the banker loses and subsequent to the bonus wager being deducted, the banker or dealer de-activates the system by manipulating the switch key as at 94. The consecutive or plurality of games of baccarat continue with the same banker, if

the banker's hand was a winning or ~~tieing~~ tying hand as at 90. The casino designates a new banker as indicated in the remaining portion of Figure 6A if the banker's hand loses.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 36 line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In yet another embodiment of the method of playing the variation "baccarat plus" as represented in Figures 7 and 7A, a random system is activated to increase the bonus payout initially announced by the casino as at 62, in the event that more than two consecutive banker's hands are made, such as three, four, five or more consecutive hands, each of which have a total number count of nine. Therefore with reference to Figures 7 and 7A, after the banker makes or indicates his bonus wager as at [[70]] 71, he activates the system utilizing or manipulating the key switch or by any other conventional method, such as on a respective one of the switch structure 56 as at 72. The activation of the switch first, as at 75, serves ~~as at 74~~ to activate the random reward system in the event [[of]] that more than two consecutive banker's hands occur each having an equal number count of nine. The method of playing the variation of

"baccarat plus" continues as set forth with regard to the embodiments of Figures 5, 5A and 6, 6A up to the point where more than two consecutive banker's hands are made. At this point, the bonus payout originally announced as at 62 in Figure 6 is increased, because of the difficulty in achieving numerous consecutive hands. The increase is performed on a random basis as at 105. Such random increase in the bonus payout may occur by any random facility or regiment determined by the house and may be further determined electronically or by more conventional means such as the roll of dice, etc. Once the bonus payout as at 62 has been increased after obtaining the two consecutive banker's hands with an equal number count of nine, the game continues in the manner set forth with the embodiment of Figures 5, 5A and 6, 6A. With these embodiments, however, the casino will of course recognize that more than two consecutive hands accomplished by the banker is entitled to an increased bonus payout. Such bonus payout will be increased on a preset basis which is known to the banker and the player[['s]] prior to the beginning of play.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 38 line 3

with the following amended paragraph:

-- With regard to the various preceding embodiments of the present method, it is recognized that although play in the more automated manner is permitted by the apparatus of the present invention, it may be preferred that a more manual system wherein the dealer merely identifies and/or collects the bonus wager, and manually determines and/or keeps track of the number of consecutive bonus hands may also be provided. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, alternate variations are also contemplated so as to provide for eligibility to a bonus payout to all participants to the game and not merely the person(s) that are actually playing a hand. For example, participants can choose to wager on the player or banker hands, both to merely win and as to the bonus payout. In such an embodiment, the participants may be required to bet before or after initial cards are distributed, or may be required to stay with the same side (i.e. player or banker) for consecutive games to accumulate multiple hands totaling nine and win a bonus payout. Of course, variations wherein the participant can change sides, but still receives multiple hands totaling nine may also be provided. Further, the bonus payout may be achieved only for consecutive

hands totaling a predetermined number count, and/or a smaller bonus payout component may be provided merely for a win with a nine, a win with a natural nine, a win with a nine and all cards of the same suit, etc. Payout tables as illustrated below may be provided for such types of gaming variants.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 40 line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Additionally, the present gaming assembly 100 also preferably includes at least one input, such as in the form of a user actuatable selector 140. Preferably, the user actuatable selector 140 includes one or more selectors, such as using physical buttons, a touch screen, joystick, voice activated selector, etc., the objective being to allow the user to make certain decisions such as a wagering amount, whether to change a card, whether to make a bonus wager, etc. Further, in the multi-player environment, each user preferably includes their own input so that they may make any individual choices available to them. For example, in one embodiment represented in Figure 8, each individual player station may include a display and an input, such as in the form of a touch screen. Furthermore, as

wagering is usually involved in the game play, a payment receiving assembly, such as one or more slots 150 for receiving credits, such as money, either in coins, tokens, credits, bills, cards, etc. is also preferably provided, either at a central location and/or in connection with each single player or multi-player gaming station.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 41 line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The baccarat gaming assembly 100 further includes at least one computer processor 130. The computer processor 130 is structured to be responsive to the user and to generate a player hand and a banker hand in accordance with the rules of baccarat. Along these lines, the computer processor 130 is structured to define a deck from which the cards which comprise the player's hand and the banker's hand are dealt. For example, it is recognized that a multiple deck shoe may be used in conventional baccarat, and as such the deck defined by the computer processor may include one or more conventional 52 card decks as may be desired by the house, or in some cases by the user. Furthermore, the computer processor 130 is structured to continue to generate

new ones of the player's hand and the banker's hand with the cards from the deck until a number of remaining cards of the deck drops below a predefined minimum number of cards. For example, as with a conventional shoe, when the remaining cards in the deck becomes too small, as dictated by the house or a cut by the user, a new deck must then be generated. Furthermore, the computer processor 130 may be structured to permit subsequent users of the gaming assembly 100 to continue to use the deck of a previous user, if desired. Specifically, it is understood that in many instances users may try to gage the outcome of a hand based upon the number of cards remaining in the deck or the "luck" of a given deck. As such, if a user no longer wishes to use the same deck they may request a new deck, either affirmatively, if permitted, or by exiting as a user and restarting a new user. Moreover, if an observer believes they can gain an advantage based upon what they have seen or believe from a prior user, they may be given the option to continue with the old deck. Along these lines, it may be preferable to provide a graphic display or illustration on the display 120 of the number of cards remaining in a deck. Although an exact count could be provided, it is preferred that an illustration

which requires the user to gage or keep track of the deck size is preferred. Such graphic illustration could also be used to allow the deck to be cut by the user. Of course, in a multi-player game, restrictions on a user's ability to reset a new deck[[,]] and random or rotating cutting of the deck may also be provided.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 43 line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

-- As yet another alternative, the computer processor 130 may be structured to deal both the player's hand and the banker's hand, with one card from each hand being visible, and allowing the user to accept or reject the visible card from one or both hands. Specifically, either before or after the user has elected to play as the player or the banker, the user can see one of the cards of each hand. If the visible card is desirable, the user may keep that card and continue with play. If, however, the user does not want one or both of the visible cards to remain, he can select to discard one or both, a new card being provided by the computer processor. In this regard, it is recognized that the user may elect to keep or reject a

visible card based upon which hand he is playing and whether he wants a specific hand to be a winner for himself/herself or a loser for the computer processor. As such, the computer processor may be programmed such that the user can only discard the visible card from the hand they have elected to play, the[[y]] hand they have not elected to play, only one visible card from either hand, or the visible card from both hands. Also, as mentioned, this discard/card replacement process can take place before or after the user has elected which hand to play, and/or in another variant the replacement cards may be shown or withheld until the user elects which hand to play. For example, the user may select one or both cards to be discarded, after which the cards are removed, but no new card is shown to the user until they have elected whether to play as the player or bank. It is also recognized that in addition to a variation wherein the cards are visible and the user merely selects which hand to play without any discards, the discard variations are also available to a multi-player game. In such a multi-player game, however, it may be preferred that a single user be charged with selecting the discards for the common hands, or a voting or polling system may be employed such that all users make a

selection and the majority or randomly selected decision[[s]] decides which cards to discard and replace.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 45 line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Looking once again to the previously recited bonus payout method of the present invention, such a system may also be integrated into the baccarat gaming assembly 100, either alone[[,]] and/or preferably in conjunction with one or more of the previously recited variants provided by the computer processor 130. Specifically, in such an embodiment, the computer processor 130 is structured to keep track of at least consecutive ones of the user's hand, and/or all hands, and especially the final number counts thereof. In particular, if the final number counts of at least two consecutive ones of the user's hands or in another variation either the player's or banker's hands, equal a certain predefined number count, such as preferably nine or a natural nine, the computer processor is structured to indicate a bonus payout for the user. Furthermore, the computer processor 130 may be structured to continue to monitor continuing hands, increasing the bonus

payout [[is]] if more than two consecutive hands have the same, predefined final number count, and preferably terminating the increase of the bonus payout once a sequential one of the user's hands or any hand does not match the preceding hand. As with the previous embodiments, the computer processor 130 may be structured to pay the bonus payout regardless if at least two consecutive hands have the matching predetermined number count, or can be structured to make a bonus payout if the user lets the bonus payout "ride" on subsequent hands. In such an embodiment the computer processor is preferably responsive to a user decision to cash out their bonus payout or altogether if required to cash out the bonus payout. In one embodiment, the computer processor 130 is structured to accumulate the bonus payout only if the matching consecutive ones of the user's hand are all either banker's hands or player's hands. As such, a user may not switch between player and banker and continue to be eligible for a bonus payout based upon the preceding hand. Naturally, a variant whereby the user can switch sides is also contemplated. Furthermore, it is also contemplated that in some embodiments the bonus payout is made regardless of whether the user wins or loses a specific hand, so long as a nine or other

predefined number count is achieved by the user's hand, or if desired by either hand. In such an embodiment, if both hands have the same predefined number count, the computer processor may be structured to count [[to]] two hands towards the bonus payout. Indeed, in such an embodiment the outcome of the game itself need not be a material factor, and the user can play only for the bonus payout, discarding visible cards, for example, so as to maximize their chances of obtaining that number count with at least one of the hands, and thereby keeping the bonus play going, and preferably increasing, into subsequent hands.